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Letter dated 1 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 August 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-21038 (E) 050897 060897

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 August 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 July 1997 (A/51/948-S/1997/580 and Corr.1) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations in connection with the visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus of His Excellency Mr. Bülent Ecevit, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, accompanied by a delegation of ministers and other officials. The visit took place at the invitation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on the occasion of the 20 July Peace and Freedom Day celebrations.

I wish to stress, at the outset, that the relations between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are deeply rooted in a common history, culture and kinship and are based on reciprocal recognition and mutual respect between two independent states. Turkey, as the motherland of Turkish Cypriots, and as one of the guarantors of the 1960 partnership republic, has provided effective security guarantees for the Turkish Cypriot people in the face of the long-standing campaign of the Greek-Greek cypriot camp to realize the union of Cyprus with Greece (enosis). This armed campaign, which had started in the mid-1950s and resurged in 1963, finally culminated in the bloody attempt in 1974 at the final takeover of Cyprus by Greece, through a coup d'état organized by the junta in Athens and its collaborators in Cyprus.

Turkey had to intervene on 20 July 1974 in the face of the coup to realize enosis and in order to protect the Turkish Cypriot people, who had been subjected to a severe campaign of ethnic cleansing in the preceding 11 years, and faced imminent threat of extermination at the hands of the invading Greek army and its proxies in Cyprus during the coup (see Archbishop Makarios' statement openly accusing Greece of invading Cyprus, contained in the verbatim record of the 1780th meeting of the Security Council (see S/PV.1780 of 19 July 1974)). Turkey's timely and legitimate intervention, undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, laid the foundation for a just and durable settlement of the Cyprus question on a bicommunal and bizonal basis.

The Turkish Cypriots have since celebrated the anniversary of this historic turning point in their struggle for survival, freedom and dignity, as Peace and Freedom Day. As an expression of gratitude to Turkey, Turkish officials are invited to attend celebrations to mark this most significant moment in our history. It is clearly the prerogative of the Government to invite whoever it chooses to visit the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, as it is to conclude bilateral agreements and issue joint declarations with Turkey.

Deputy Prime Minister Ecevit's visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with other high-level Turkish officials on the above-mentioned occasion, in the context of the special relations that exist between the two countries, demonstrates Turkey's continuing commitment to the security and well-being of the Turkish Cypriot people. At the same time, Turkey's presence in Northern Cyprus as a guarantor Power is an indispensable element for a peaceful solution,

evidenced by the fact that the Turkish peace forces have preserved peace and stability in the island during the past 23 years. The Greek Cypriot side's protestations over the visit, therefore, are totally unwarranted and emanate from its unfounded claim to be the sole sovereign authority over the whole island and the desire to totally isolate the Turkish Cypriot people, which is the real provocation and an impediment to a peaceful solution.

As regards the baseless charges concerning "airspace violations", I should like to recall that previous similar allegations were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in the letter dated 2 July 1997 (A/51/939-S/1997/526). Since the present Greek Cypriot allegations are no different from or more credible than those previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The same principle applies also in the case of visits to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by vessels belonging to the Turkish navy.

It is ironic that the Greek Cypriot administration, which criticizes visits by Turkish officials to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, frequently hosts officials from Greece. A case in point is the recent visit to southern Cyprus of Mr. Panayiotis Sgurides, the Deputy Speaker of the Greek Parliament, who stated the following during his visit:

> "After the year 2000 Cyprus will become the EU's 16th member. The threats made by Ecevit and the negative stance of Kinkel and Holbrooke are aimed at dissuading us from the pursuit of our strategic options. When the time comes for Estonia, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to become EU members, our veto will carry the same weight as that of Germany. Then we will see whether Kinkel will be ready to forego the membership of Poland in order to block the full membership of Cyprus" (Greek Cypriot Press of 27 July 1997).

This statement by Mr. Sgurides is indicative of the fact that Greece and the Greek Cypriot side have been making contingency plans for "blackmail diplomacy" rather than concentrating their efforts on the peaceful settlement of the Cyprus issue. Evidently, the decision by the Greek Cypriot side and Greece to press on with the unilateral and illegal bid to secure full European Union membership for southern Cyprus in the name of "Cyprus" cannot be compatible with the search for a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus issue on a bicommunal and bizonal basis.

The Turkish Cypriot side has already made its position amply clear in respect of the Greek Cypriot drive towards unilateral European Union membership, and the envisaged commencement of accession negotiations with the Greek Cypriot administration, in contravention of the 1960 treaties on Cyprus. I will, therefore, refrain from elaborating on the legal and political difficulties associated with the issue of European Union membership, and the long-standing Greek Cypriot ambition to convert the island into a Greek colony. It will suffice to recall that in the joint statement issued on 20 July 1997, Turkey and

the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have outlined the steps that will be taken in the face of the increasingly hostile and intransigent attitude of the Greek Cypriot side, with a view to facilitating a settlement on the island that would provide for the continuation of peace and guarantees, maintain the balance in relation to Cyprus between Turkey and Greece, acknowledge the equality and sovereignty of the two sides in Cyprus and prevent the hegemony of one side over the other.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus